

March 29, 2004

Project 184 Weekly Update
Website: www.project184.org

Our New Toll Free Project 184 information number is now working. **The new number is 1-(866)-776-5184 or 1-(866)-project184.**

Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities
For Project 184
Week Ending March 26, 2004

Lake Aloha Dam Maintenance and Telemetry Station Project

The District received the public/agency review period closing letter from the State Clearinghouse this week following the March 19 deadline for comments on the District's Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). EN2 Resources provided the District a summary chronology and memorandum summarizing agency consultations to date, and a suggested letter to be sent to reviewing/permitting agencies regarding the District's upcoming applications for project approvals (assuming District Board adoption of the MND and approval of the project at its April 19 Board meeting).

District, USFS, FERC and EN2 Resources representatives conferred this week to clarify Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act procedural steps for consulting with the State Office of Historic Preservation (SOHP) on the results of the eligibility evaluation of the Lake Aloha dams for potential listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The eligibility evaluation, performed by JRP Historical Consulting, concludes that the dams do not appear eligible for listing, and the USFS and SOHP must now review and concur with the evaluation results to complete the Section 106 process.

Mill to Bull Tunnel/Spillway 20

The Administrative Draft Initial Study was delivered to the District on March 22 and is under review by District staff. A CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed, with mandatory mitigation identified for, among other issues, potential impacts to Bull Creek during construction and public safety in the Bull Creek Recreational Tract during emergency spillway operations. The proximity of Bull Creek to construction activities and the limited capacity of the culvert at the road crossing in the recreational tract are key issues addressed in the Initial Study. Assuming District staff complete review of the document by March 31, the document will be revised, filed with the State Clearinghouse, and submitted to permitting agencies on or about April 7 for the start of the 30-day public and agency review period.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a revised Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Mill to Bull Tunnel spoils this week. The Waiver concurs with District technical analyses showing reduced risks of impacts to water quality and public

health from reuse of the spoils on USFS roads. Certain limitations still apply to reuse of the spoils, but RWQCB previously specified conditions, such as capping of the spoils, are no longer be required. The District will now request that the USFS take over management responsibility for the spoils at the three spoils stockpile sites.

Relicensing Activities

The District distributed a proposed agenda for the March 31 meeting with the USFS to discuss District/USFS schedules and review processes for CIP engineering and construction actions for 2004 and 2005.

Camp 2 Short-Cut Access Road

The USFS indicated this week that it has decided not to permit the District to rehabilitate and use the Camp 2 Short-Cut Road on a seasonal basis as the District had requested, and that the road will be permanently closed. The District will continue planning and consulting with the USFS on required actions for stabilizing a surface slide and addressing vandalism of a National Register of Historic Places-eligible rock wall on the primary Camp 2 access road.

Project 184 Relicensing Support

The District and USFS have rescheduled a coordination meeting from March 15 to March 31 to discuss Relicensing Settlement Agreement, District Capital Improvement Program, and Mill to Bull Tunnel Project completion activities and priorities.

SPI Plum Creek Staging Area SWPPP Maintenance

District Camp 5 staff began replacing and improving SWPPP BMPs at the Plum Creek staging area based on poor performance of the existing SWPPP BMPs during this past winter. The improvements to the BMPs include installing larger diameter straw wattles, reorienting the layout of the wattles, and re-grading and placement of 6-12 inch rock in the main drainage area to reduce erosion and better contain sediment.

Mill Creek Diversion Modification Project (Bore Hole)

District staff met on March 10 to discuss the potential methods, feasibility and environmental considerations of drilling the bore hole from Mill Creek downward to the Mill to Bull Tunnel, versus the currently proposed drilling of the bore hole from the Mill to Bull Tunnel upward to Mill Creek. Reconsideration of the construction methods is partly in response to comments from R. Kanz of the SWRCB on the District's CEQA Initial Study that the District should reconsider the Mill Creek downward drilling method. If revised to Mill Creek downward drilling, the District will need to address several environmental and worker safety issues associated with working in the narrow canyon over the creek with the drilling equipment.

2004 Project 184 Planned CIP Projects:

- Hazel Creek Tunnel
- Lake Aloha Telemetry/Dam Repairs
- Spillway 20

- Silver Lake Spillway Automation
- Echo Lake Outlet Valve Automation/Spillway Valve
- Slide Repairs Flume 6&7, and Camp 2 Road
- Special Use Permit/ Road Work
- New Canal SCADA Alarms
- Install Weather Station
- Replace Flume 52
- Rebuild Spillway Chutes
- Engineering For Flumes 31, 49-50 Concrete Flume
- Engineering Echo Conduit and Tunnel Repairs
- Replacement of Deer Fencing Beat one
- Fence Camp 5

Ecological Resources Committee meeting planned for April 27th, 2004 Meeting

EID held is scheduled ERC meeting on February 17th. The next ERC meeting is scheduled for April 27, at 0900. Final meeting minutes will be circulated to all parties this week.

***Akin Powerhouse Water Quality Monitoring**

The final water quality monitoring events were performed on December 17 and 19 upstream and downstream of the Akin Powerhouse. The monitoring began in mid-October and was performed an average of once per week to assess potential changes in water quality during a wide range of start-up and testing procedures for the powerhouse. Results indicate that Akin Powerhouse operations had negligible effects on South Fork American River water quality conditions during the monitoring periods.

SWPPP measures are in place and inspections are being performed as required.

***Powerhouse Update:**

EID is operating the powerhouse between 18 to 20mw. Currently we are operating both units 24 hours a day, while we perform further efficiency testing.

***Canal**

The flows in the canal are being regulated by A-12 requirements for minimum fish flows. Fish life this month per the settlement agreement is 110cfs at A-12, beginning March 1st. Current flows in canal are ranging between 138-146.4cfs. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal to be filled to its capacity. SCADA is being manned 24 hours a day to insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal. Further automation of the Diversion Structure is planned to control A-12 (Fish Release's) and A-11 (canal flows).

Canal flow testing is being performed this week. On Wednesday, March 31, 2004 flow will be reduced to 100cfs, April 1st flows will be reduced to 60cfs, and then on Friday, April 2nd we will flow 146cfs.

EID is continually working on its automation to control the Diversion Structure at the intake to regulate the float controller to allow EID to satisfy the A-12 minimum flow requirements and place balance of water in the canal at A-11. This will allow EID to operate with much tighter flows, maximizing generation production. Mead & Hunt continues to provide engineering support on the remaining tasks to be completed at intake.

EID is in the preliminary stages of beginning work on the Hazel Creek Tunnel. Access road and site clearing is scheduled to begin March 19, 2004, with burning of brush scheduled to be completed by April 10, 2004. This project is expected to be in progress between February 9 through October 31, 2004, at which time EID expects to be completed.

EID has received all its project signs and will be installing these new EID signs throughout our Project 184. The lakes will receive new signage this spring when the snow melts. Ice warning signs have been posted at Lakes to warn fisherman of changing lake levels.

Tributary flows:

Esmeralda and Ogilby are not being utilized in canal, as of this report; however if bypass flows are above minimums EID will utilize the water as needed.

Echo Lake

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

Caples Lake

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized. ICE warning sign have been posted at lakes, warning fisherman of changing lake levels. EID plans to draw Caples Lake down as required to prevent early spill. Planned releases for Caples creek this week are 18cfs due to increased runoff.

Silver Lake

The radial gates are in the full open position and will remain this way From November 1 to April 1 inclusive. Facilities have been winterized.

Lake Aloha

Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern.

A visit was made October 29, 2003 to Lake Aloha.

Staff 5.64 = 29.5 AF

A trip was made to Pyramid Creek (A-40) on January 29, Staff Reading 1.72=12.9cfs.

A trip was made to Echo Lake the week of January 19th but readings could not be taken due to the amount of snow on the staff. Everything appears to be normal.

Listed below are the Projects readings for March 29, 2004
Taken from SCADA:

| | Staff | Ac. Ft. | Draft |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Echo Lake | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Echo Conduit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Echo Creek | 1.85 | | 27.2 cfs |
| Caples Lake | 39.28 | 10,017 | 15.4 |
| Silver Lake | 1,138 | 3,516 | 66.4 cfs. |
| Pyramid Creek | 0 | 0 | 0 |

There is 146.4cfs @ A-11 being released into the canal at Intake and 501.3 cfs flowing in the South Fork of the American River at Intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage $3796.30 = 278$ AF

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is $.73 = 12.7$ cfs.

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